

## TWELFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The twelfth annual conference was held from Saturday to Monday, 1-3 June 1963, Queen's Birthday weekend, in the Easterfield Building, Victoria University of Wellington. Ninety-two people enrolled. In an attempt to encourage student participation the President had previously circulated all biology professors calling attention to the conference.

With the President in the chair in the morning and Mr. K. R. Allen in the afternoon, the first day was devoted to an interesting miscellany of short papers; those marked with an asterisk below are published in this number of the Proceedings.

### Morning session

- \*Forest regeneration problems in the Hunua Ranges, Auckland" . . . W. B. Silvester.
- "Forest succession on landslides above Lake Thompson, Fiordland" . . . A. F. Mark, G. A. M. Scott and F. R. Sanderson.
- "Fire as an ecological factor in New Caledonia" . . . J. W. Dawson.
- "An ecological study of Pasmu disease of linseed in Canterbury and North Otago" . . . F. R. Sanderson.

### Afternoon session

- "Kangaroos and climate" . . . G. Caughley.
- \*"The distribution of tuna in relation to oceanographic conditions" . . . M. K. McKenzie.
- \*"The fish population of the Hinds River, Canterbury" . . . E. D. Lane.
- \*"The effect of a daily rise and fall in water level on the shore community of Lake Roxburgh" . . . J. W. Winter.
- "Seasonal trends in a hedgehog population" . . . P. F. Jenkins.

On the Saturday evening a buffet tea and social gathering in the Conference Room preceded the annual general meeting; this in turn was followed by the Presidential Address on "The ecology of soil inhabiting organisms" by Dr. K. E. Lee.

To sidestep the possibility of enduring a distant field excursion in mid-winter's inclement weather and at the same time to implement the suggestion that excursions should illustrate live research, the excursion on Sunday took the form of a conducted tour of the new D.S.I.R. Soil Bureau campus at Taita. Attended by about 50 members, this was a great success and the Society is grateful to Dr. J. K. Dixon, Director of the Soil Bureau, and to his staff for their lively account of the research in progress.

For several years Council has shied off the steamy topic chosen for this year's symposium, "Animal modification of native vegetation", which occupied the whole of the Monday. Chaired by Dr. Walter E. Howard, from the University of California, the following papers were delivered in the morning:—

- "General trends in forest modification by introduced animals" . . . J. T. Holloway.
- "Modification of alpine grasslands by grazing animals" . . . M. J. Wraight.
- "Chamois in New Zealand" . . . A. H. C. Christie.
- "Sheep in the tussock grasslands" . . . B. H. Hercus.
- "Interactions between feral goats and vegetation in New Zealand" . . . I. A. E. Atkinson.
- "Noxious animals, pests and deer" . . . R. J. McNeil.
- "Some biotic factors in dispersal and destruction of seed in central North Island podocarp forest" . . . A. E. Beveridge.
- "The effect of insects on natural vegetation" . . . J. M. Hoy.

In the afternoon the Chairman spoke on "Animal-caused changes in the species composition of vegetation in New Zealand", and summed up the morning's papers. Despite Council's apprehension lest the discussion that followed become emotionally overcharged, it proved surprisingly restrained.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Eleventh Annual General Meeting was held in the Easterfield Building, Victoria University of Wellington, at 7.45 p.m. on Saturday, 1 June 1963. The President, Dr. K. E. Lee, was in the chair and some 50 members attended.

The minutes of the previous annual general meeting were read and confirmed, and the annual report and statement of accounts adopted after discussion. Officers elected for the forthcoming year were: President, Dr. K. E. Lee; Vice-President, Dr. J. A. Gibb; Hon. Secretary, Miss J. M. Fulton; Hon. Treasurer, C. L. Hopkins.

Mr. I. A. E. Atkinson described progress made during the year with the conservation of native communities. Three fully documented cases had been submitted for consideration by the Nature Conservation Council: the Spirits Bay area of North Cape, various unique communities in the Chatham Islands, and the Moana-tuatua peat bog. Preparation of several other submissions was reported well in hand and the Society intended to keep in close touch with the Nature Conservation Council. Mr. Atkinson's sub-committee was congratulated on its success which, it was emphasised, depends on the interest and enthusiasm of members in providing local information.

Council was recommended that the next meeting should be held in Christchurch during August 1964.

The formal business was followed by Dr. Lee's Presidential address and the meeting adjourned after supper.